कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविन्द नेतम) :

(क) से (ग) सरकार द्वारा तैयार किए गए कृषि नीति संकल्प के संशोधित मसौदे में यह व्यवस्था की गई है कि "सरकार, कृषि को उद्योग के समान दर्जा देने के लिए एक सकारात्मक व्यापार तथा निवेश संबंधी वातावरण का सृजन करने का प्रयास करेगी । सरकार की नीति का उद्देश्य, प्रभावकारी प्रणालियों को विकसित करना तथा कृषि पर उद्योग के समान लाभ प्रदान करना होगा" संकल्प का संशोधित मसौदा 14 मई, 1993 को सभा पटल पर रखा गया है ।

DEMAND OF FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND MEAT ETC. IN GULF COUNTRIES

3315. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute demand in Gulf countries of fresh fruits, vegetables, meat etc. ;

(b) if so, whether Government have any plan to help the farmers to enter the Gulf-market ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

SUPPORT TO BASMATI RICE GROWERS

3316. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that prices of Basmati rice have dwindled to all time low ;

(c) what steps Government propose to take to support the Basmati rice growers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) The Wholesale Prices of Basmati Rice have recently shown a downward trend. This may be attributed to the commencement of kharif marketing season with effect from October, 1993.

(c) The minimum support prices fixed for fine and superfiine varieties for 1993-94 paddy crop are Rs. 330 and Rs. 350 per quintal as compared to Rs. 280 and Rs. 290 per quintal respectively for the 1992-93 crop. Resides, export of Basmati Rice has also been allowed.

NEW VARIETIES OF COTTON AND RICE BY PAU, LUDHIANA

3317. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that no new variety has been evolved in cotton, rice wheat by Punjab Agriculture University at Ludhiana and that the University research work is at stand still, if so, the reasons thereof and if not, the varieties developed by the University, cropwise ; and

(b) whether the cane cultivation is on the decline in Punjab and many Sugar Mills like Fazilka Co-op. Sugar Mills is not getting enough Sugarcane from the area if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. The varieties